

The Vermont EB-5 Regional Center



photo courtesy of Country Home Products

*The EB-5 Immigrant Visa Program
allocates 10,000 permanent resident visas
to individuals for their investment in an
approved commercial enterprise.*



VERMONT

**AGENCY OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC, HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

thinkvermont.com

EB-5 Regional Center of the Year Award in 2010 and 2011.

~ Artisan Business Group



Access Foreign Investment Through the EB-5 Program

The EB-5 program is a federal investment program run by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The goal of the program is to incent investment and create American jobs by setting aside a pool of green cards for qualified foreign investors that provide capital for approved EB-5 projects. Companies are able to use foreign investment for projects that meet the program's eligibility criteria, such as business expansion, development, or adding capacity.

Vermont's Competitive Advantage

As the only state owned, operated and managed EB-5 regional center, Vermont offers businesses unique advantages.

- **Established Infrastructure.** The Vermont Regional Center provides the oversight and infrastructure required by USCIS allowing businesses located in Vermont to access the EB-5 program without added cost or administrative burden.
- **Independent Oversight.** Operated by Vermont's Agency of Commerce and Community Development, businesses also benefit from the added credibility that a state-run center provides. Investors are ensured that projects are approved and reviewed regularly by an independent and qualified state authority.
- **Reduced Investment Criteria.** Nearly the entire state qualifies as a "rural" area, which grants investors the same green card benefit as the standard EB-5 program, but requires only half the minimum investment (\$500,000), and has lesser job creation requirements.



photo courtesy of Sugarbush Resort

Benefits of a Vermont EB-5 Regional Center project:

- *Minimum investment per investor is \$500,000 (\$1 million for standard EB-5 projects).*
- *Less restrictive job creation requirements based upon the creation of “indirect” jobs (10 direct jobs for standard EB-5 projects).*
- *Only Regional Center owned, operated and administered directly by state government officials.*
- *Each project is reviewed quarterly to ensure proper management and promote success.*

Together, these advantages differentiate Vermont Regional Center EB-5 projects from other projects across the country making them attractive options for foreign investors.

Getting Started

Vermont’s program has a proven track record to support growing businesses.

The first step is determining if the project is eligible for the EB-5 pilot program. It may be eligible if:

- It is a for-profit enterprise
- The project is an at-risk investment
- The project is located outside of the Burlington/South Burlington MSA*

Troubled business status

Additional incentives may be available if your business has had a net loss of at least 20% of net worth during the 12 or 24 months before the project begins.

* Burlington/South Burlington MSA includes:

- Within Chittenden County: Bolton, Buels Gore, Burlington, Charlotte, Colchester, Essex, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Milton, Richmond, Shelburne, South Burlington, St. George, Underhill, Westford, Williston and Winooski
- Within Grand Isle County: Alburg, Grand Isle, Isle La Motte, North Hero and South Hero
- Within Franklin County: Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburg, Fairfax, Fairfield, Fletcher, Franklin, Georgia, Highgate, Montgomery, Richford, Sheldon, St. Albans City, St. Albans Town and Swanton



photo courtesy of Jay Peak Resort

For more information contact:

The Vermont EB-5 Regional Center is operated by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

To learn how your business can use the EB-5 program for investment capital, contact Brent Raymond at: **802-828-1681** or **Brent@thinkvermont.com**.

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